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Chicopee Register

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Teachers rally for remote learning

Chicopee Education Association members advocate for the district to adopt a full-remote learning model outside of the Aug. 5 School Committee meeting at Chicopee Comprehensive High School.

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Before a contentious School Committee meeting convened on Aug. 5, local educators rallied outside of Chicopee Comprehensive High School, urging representatives to adopt a remote-learning format for the upcoming school year.

The Chicopee Educators Association consists of more than 1,000 school district employees, and many of them arrived at the high school last Wednesday to make their collective opinion heard.

"Is one student or staff member contracting the disease acceptable? Is one student or staff member dying acceptable? Our answer to this is 'no,'" said CEA President Laura Demakis.

The Office of Superintendent Lynn Clark has submitted a reopening plan to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that outlines three potential return models. Potential approaches to the 2020-2021 academic year include a full-return, a hybrid approach or a fully remote learning plan.

An overwhelming majority of Chicopee educators support the full-remote model. A recent survey that polled 670 CEA members revealed that more than 90 percent of the district's educators oppose the prospect of re-entering the district's school buildings this fall.

"We are simply asking that the School Committee vote for a remote-learning plan because right now it is not safe to go into the buildings. It is not safe for students and it is not safe for staff; we are very concerned," said Gina Totorski-Dahl, a Chicopee Comp English teacher.

CEA members Christine Oliver and Gina Totorski-Dahl advocate for a full-remote learning format for the upcoming school year.

On Aug. 5, dozens of CEA members held signs and chanted outside of Chicopee

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COMMUNITY

Mural of longtime resident, "Bunny" graces gas station wall

The completed mural of local resident, Bernard "Bunny" Murray, in Chicopee, painted by local artist, Johnny Miranda.

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

As the decades have passed, the city has changed, but one of Chicopee's most beloved residents has remained the same. For more than 50 years, Bernard "Bunny" Murray has brought life to the Aldenville community by always repeating a simple act of kindness: a wave.

To honor the local icon, Chicopee artist Johnny Miranda recently completed the Bunny Mural, a large-scale mural of Murray, which can be seen on the side wall of the Gulf Gas Station at the intersection of McKinstry Avenue and Grattan Street. Murray frequents the area, and is well-known for waving at passer-bys.

"People in the community feel that Bunny has an important legacy in Chicopee because everyone knows who Bunny is and has been impacted by his wave. I think that it's very important to honor Bunny and do this because it will give everyone some of that joy he brought to us, the next generation," said Miranda.

The community came together to fund the project, and the owner of the gas station donated the space for the mural. What was once a bland wall will now leave a positive and striking visual impression on all who pass through one of the city's busiest intersections.

Miranda serves as chair of the Chicopee Cultural Council but pursued and completed the mural off his own volition. During a trying year, Miranda believes that art can be a solution to a myriad of problems.

"We're going through difficult times, and art is healing. Art can heal, and think that we need a lot of that," he said.

As summer continues, the Cultural Council will launch a series of grant-funded murals in Chicopee Center. The work can be taxing, but Miranda's surroundings inspire him to bring new life to the city.

"What motivates me is the area that I live in. It's the fact that I know it's important for the community and it's important for the future of the arts in the city. It's important for people to start seeing art up on our walls in our murals and public spaces," said Miranda.

He was moved by the community's support of the Bunny Mural and its willingness to aid in its creation. However, he wasn't surprised by the action.

"We're donating our time because there's a larger pur-

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COMMUNITY

Local cleanup

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School reopening vote postponed

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School opening could affect sports return

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Love, Peace and Kielbasa Grease cleans up

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Last Saturday, a small band of residents with a much larger vision went on a cleaning spree near the Grattan Street hill. Organized by a community group named "Love, Peace and Kielbasa Grease," the initiative targeted the area near the Route 391 ramps.

"We're a big social media presence and noticed that there were a lot of people talking about the end of the 391 ramp on Grattan Street being dirty. A lot of trash had accumulated there so we took it upon ourselves to organize our Saturday morning cleanup," said Paul Parks, founder of Love, Peace and Kielbasa Grease.

A group of about six residents collected five bags of trash while working for an hour on the morning of Aug. 8. They also removed car parts and multiple bed frames, and took time to interact with members of the community.

McKinstry's Market Garden Inc. a Montgomery Street-based farm, contributed to the cleanup from afar. The business loaned out a dumpster, saving the volunteers from paying heavy fees.

"McKinstry Farms donated their dumper space, which is really big because in Chicopee we're charged for our trash so cleaning up is half the battle," said Parks. "Disposing of what we clean up is the other half. A big shout out to McKinstry Farms for donating their dumpster space; it really is appreciated."

Parks noted that the Facebook group is in the process of planning future cleaning excursions throughout the city. He hopes that the endeavors will enhance the city's image one clean up at a time.

"I'm an Aldenvillen; I was born and raised here in Chicopee," said Parks. "We're going to be doing cleanups on the regular to try to make Chicopee a little bit cleaner. We're hoping that it becomes contagious so that we do a better job of keeping our city clean."

By cleaning around and near busy roads and intersections, Parks is confident that drivers and pedestrians will be discouraged from disposing of their litter on Chicopee soil.

"When people see Chicopee, we hope that they're less likely to throw out their trash there. If they see our efforts, maybe other people will come to pick up the trash and dispose of it," said Parks.

It won't be easy to buck the trend of littering in locations such as the Route 391 ramps and Grattan Street. Parks considers talk to be merely talk; going out and making a difference leaves the greatest impression.

"It's about actions and not necessarily words. You have to put it in action. It's hard to tackle these things individually. That's why I put Love, Peace and Kielbasa Grease together; to make it more of a community effort. Certainly, the more people that get involved, the bigger the impact that we can make. We're just looking to make Chicopee a great place to live and work and raise our kids," said Parks.

Members of a local Facebook group called "Love, Peace and Kielbasa Grease" clean Grattan Street on the morning of Aug.10. *TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI*

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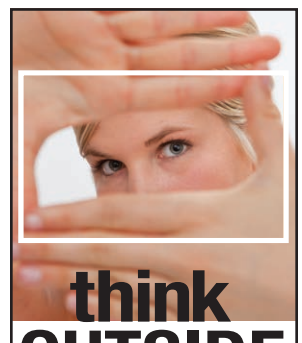
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Return to school vote postponed, tempers flare

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Tempers flared during an arduous meeting of the School Committee held inside of Chicopee Comprehensive High School on Aug 5, during which a return to school model was expected to be voted on. The committee was tasked with determining how students will return to school this fall, and a jolting conversation ensued, with a vote on the plan postponed until Aug. 12.

Entering the session, it was expected that the committee would commit to one of three return-to-school models the district has designed for the upcoming academic year. After more than two hours of tense dialogue, it instead voted 7-5 to postpone the decision.

Representatives were asked to choose between an in-person, hybrid or fully-remote return model, and a lengthy discussion identified the many pros and cons of each option. The decision to postpone was neither easily nor hastily made.

"I didn't sign up to be on the School Committee to face something like this. This is hard," said Ward 3 Representative Marjorie Wojcik. "I'm looking at kids, teachers that I've known for years; it's just very hard to pick something out. They all sound good when you read them. Do we have to make a decision today?"

Mayor John Vieau, the School Committee Chairperson, favors a return to in-person schooling this fall. He noted that many City Hall employees have returned safely to the building and encouraged the committee to commit to an option sooner rather than later.

At the end of a tense School Committee meeting on Aug. 5, members voted to postpone voting on how students and staff will return to school in the fall until Aug. 12. The members will decide between a fully remote plan or a hybrid model of remote and in-person learning.

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

"Tough decisions need to be made. We want to do what's right and hear from everyone. There's so many what ifs, and we're trying to prepare for as many of those as we possibly can. At some point we have to decide on what we want to do," said Vieau.

A number of School Committee representatives acknowledged that they had heard from concerned educators who are worried about maintaining safety inside of the district's school buildings. At-Large Representative Douglas Girouard relayed the sentiment.

"Obviously, the kids come first," he said. "I have received some phone calls and emails from the teachers, especially pertaining to what happens when the kids come down with symptoms and what kind of testing will be done, and if they have to be tested before they come back to school. Looking out for the teachers, I'd like to know more about how we will proceed with that."

Ward 1 School Committee Representative James Tanhauser minced no words as he spoke in favor of a full-remote model. He said he believes strongly that there is only one proper choice to be made.

"Only one of the three plans brought forth tonight ensures the safety and well-being of students and educators. That is, in my opinion, remote learning," said Tanhauser. "No, the remote plan and technology for it isn't perfect, however, it can potentially be improved and sustained a long term solution during a crippling pandemic."

Tanhauser, one of two representatives who participated over the phone, continued to detail why be believes remote learning is best. After stating that Chicopee has one of the highest positive test rates in western Massachusetts, he set his sights on the municipality itself, adamantly warning against a return to in-person learning.

"Do not leave this meeting with proverbial blood on your hands," said Tanhauser. "Do what is right for those you represent. Listen to our teachers and protect them. Our teachers are not lab rats. We can't simply replace teachers who get sick and die and say, 'Oh, well.' Let's step up and be the leaders our city so desperately needs."

Vieau interpreted Tanhauser's words as a direct insult. He quickly jabbed back at the School Committee representative.

"To sit and pretend that the decisions made today are politically driven or motivated is absolutely asinine and absurd. I'm not going to sit here and have someone suggest for a minute that I'm not making decisions based on what's in the best interest of the city of Chicopee," said Vieau.

Following the verbal bout, Wojcik motioned for the decision to be postponed until the Aug. 12 meeting. Her explanation for the motion was short and concise.

"This has been a tough meeting. Let's refocus, come back and make the right decision," she said.

City to provide emergency rental assistance for those in need

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Relief is in sight for Chicopee renters who can no longer afford to pay their rent. Aware that the COVID-19 pandemic has cost many residents their primary means of income, the city launched the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to offer respite.

"This program is for renters who cannot afford to pay their rent due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The applicant is the renter, and the benefit is paid directly to the landlord," said Mayor John Vieau.

The program aims to create revenue streams for landlords who have faced difficulties with operating expenses such as insurance or utilities during the pandemic. To support the program, Chicopee's Community Development Department allocated $250,000 from federal HOME Partnership funds.

In the absence of federal help, homeowners and renters in Massachusetts as a group could fall short on their housing payments by $135 million a month, according to data recently released by the Boston Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

Chicopee renters are among the many who are struggling to pay their bills. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program will offer up to two months of rental arrears on behalf of eligible tenants.

"While it is a challenging program for a host of regulatory reasons, the city felt it was worth the effort if we can support small landlords as well as tenants who have had income reductions due to the pandemic," said Vieau.

Some communities have established a set dollar amount, but the city of Chicopee settled on a 24-month limit in order for eligible tenants to benefit over the course of an equal duration.

"The city is being as flexible as possible," said Vieau. "The city also has limited resources so a longer period would likely result in fewer households to be served."

Chicopee learned of the program after it was highlighted by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the National Community Development Association.

To prove losses that have been sustained during the pandemic, tenants must display their pre-COVID-19 income, a notice of reduction in hours and any unemployment benefits. Tenants must also be in good standing with the city and cannot receive housing rental assistance.

"Communication between the renter and the landlord is also very important. Most landlords do not want to lose good tenants, and good communication can only help," added Vieau.

Regulations prohibit Chicopee from benefiting from the program, and federal funds cannot be used to pay back an obligation to the city. Units must also be safe and sanitary in order for a tenant to be eligible for relief.

"We have property owners who are anxious about the ability to pay their property expenses. We have renters without sufficient income to pay the rent owed. While the city does not have adequate resources to completely resolve this problem, our program should provide some relief," said Vieau.

Renters can access an enrollment application online at http://chicopeema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10594/Emegency-Rental-Assistance-ProgramProperty-Owner-Application.

Governor Baker issues new travel order for residents, visitors

BOSTON – Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker issued a new order mandating all travelers from coronavirus hot spots entering the commonwealth to fill out a Massachusetts travel form and quarantine for 14 days. The order took effect Saturday, Aug. 1.

All travelers entering the commonwealth will be required to comply with a new travel order unless they are coming from a low risk COVID-19 state or are able to produce a negative test result no more than 72 hours prior to their arrival in Massachusetts. Other exemptions include people passing through the state, those commuting across state lines for work, people traveling to Massachusetts for medical treatment, people complying with military orders, or those traveling to work in federally designated critical infrastructure sectors (essential services).

The travel order and other information is available at www.mass.gov/MAtraveler.

Individuals who get a test must remain in quarantine until they receive their negative test results. Failure to comply may result in a $500 fine per day.

Based on current public health data, those lower risk states include New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire and Hawaii. The list of lower risk states is subject to change based on public health data and states may be added or taken off the list at any time.

Prior to travel, people should visit www.mass.gov/MAtraveler to fill out the "Massachusetts Travel Form" or text "MATraveler" to 888-777.

State reminds residents to wear masks to stop spread of COVID-19

BOSTON - The Baker-Polito Administration today launched #MaskUpMA, an effort to continue to remind residents to wear masks and face-coverings in public to stop the spread of COVID-19. The effort will underscore the importance of wearing masks across multiple channels including video testimonials on social media, a new PSA, and a website, Mass.Gov/MaskUp.

Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito helped launch #MaskUpMA with video testimonials where they urge residents to wear masks to protect themselves and others. Red Sox mascot Wally the Green Monster also joined the effort today,and in the coming weeks, additional local public figures will remind everyone in Massachusetts to "mask up."

In addition, the Department of Public Health today also launched an updated public service announcement video, which is available here. Residents can also visit Mass.Gov/MaskUp to learn more about wearing face-coverings, including best practices and multilingual resources.

In May, Governor Baker issued an order requiring residents to wear face-coverings in public where social distancing is not possible. This applies to both indoor and outdoor spaces. Exceptions include children under the age of 2 and those unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition. Read the full DPH guidance and find more detailed information in frequently asked questions - face covering.

Morse not dropping out of congressional race

UMass to investigate conduct

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Alex Morse

HOLYOKE – The mayor of Holyoke is refusing to renounce his candidacy for the U.S. House of Representatives this week after controversial accusations of misconduct while working as a professor at the University of Massachusetts surfaced late last week.

Alex Morse, who has served as mayor for the last eight years, is trying to unseat longtime U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, D-Massachusetts.

Morse, also a Democrat, is set to challenge Neal in the Democratic primary currently set for Sept. 1.

With just a few weeks left before that primary, the Daily Collegian, a publication at UMass, published a letter from the College Democrats of Massachusetts and its chapters at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Amherst College.

The letter alleges Morse engaged in sexual relationships with students at the school. It further states he abused his power as an adjunct faculty member and as someone heavily involved in politics to engage in sexual relationships for his gain.

After three days of allegations reaching the mainstream media due to his involvement in the Congressional race. He is set to debate Neal in the near future.

With no Republicans involved in the race, the Sept. 1 election will effectively decide the race barring some type of strong write-in campaign.

The First Congressional District in Massachusetts represents the overwhelming majority of Western Massachusetts cities and towns in all four counties, Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire.

Neal, who has been representing Massachusetts since 1989, was once mayor of Springfield.

The two candidates have had various TV ads fueling their rivalry, but Neal's campaign denies having anything to do with the sexual misconduct allegations being made public with just three weeks to the election.

Morse, Sunday night, said he would not leave the race, and released a statement to that effect:

"I announced my candidacy for Congress because I believed our country needed leadership that understood the urgency of this moment. I believed that the voters of the First Congressional District deserved a member of Congress who would put their interests before those of wealthy and influential donors. I believed that the health of our democracy relied on envisioning a new kind of politics – a politics of lifting up and empowering ordinary people.

I still believe these things. If anything, my time as a candidate has only deepened my conviction that people are looking for a politics that is more generous, more open, and more just. I've heard stories from people in every corner of this district that I'll carry with me for the rest of my life.

Our campaign is fueled by the hard work and dedication of my amazing staff and volunteers and the contributions of small grassroots donors. Our campaign is also lifted up by the support of progressive organizations that helped take our efforts to new heights. I remain committed to their missions, but also understand the toll that recent events are taking on them and their supporters.

Over the weekend, the Daily Collegian published a story that alleged that I abused my power in having consensual sexual encounters with college students, and that I made other college students feel uncomfortable by conversing with them on social media.

I want to be very clear about this. I have never, in my entire life, had a non-consensual sexual encounter with anyone. I have never used my position of power as Mayor and UMass lecturer for romantic or sexual gain, or to take advantage of students. I have never violated UMass policy. Any claim to the contrary is false. As I've acknowledged, I have had consensual relationships with other men, including students enrolled at local universities that I've met using dating apps."

Morse said he welcomes any investigation and says he will be cleared of any wrongdoing.

On Monday, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst released a statement confirming an investigation in Morse's conduct. UMass has also gone on record saying Morse will not be re-hired as an adjunct professor. Morse taught classes in government and political science since 2014.

"The allegations that Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse engaged in inappropriate behavior with UMass Amherst students are serious and deeply concerning," UMass state. "And the university is launching an immediate review of the matter to determine whether the alleged actions during his time as a university lecturer were in violation of university policy or federal Title IX law."

City's Comprehensive Plan and the Initial Community Process

CHICOPEE – Mayor John L. Vieau announced the community kickoff of Envision Our Chicopee: 2040, a process to develop Chicopee's first-ever community-driven city-wide comprehensive plan. "Comprehensive plans are long term visions for a city and Envision Our Chicopee: 2040 will guide the city's development over the next two decades," said Vieau. "I am proud of our city and expect this plan will help build on our collective identity and a common vision for the next 20 years."

Envision Our Chicopee: 2040 will serve as the city's official guide for land use and development priorities. It will be a shared vision for Chicopee's future, a "roadmap" that guides how we get there together, and a tool that can be used by City leaders, staff, boards, and committees to make decisions regarding:

• What new development looks like and where it happens

• How the city can protect environmentally sensitive areas and historic sites

• How to prioritize future investments in community services and infrastructure that promote fairness

and equity across the city

• How to better support local business development and entrepreneurship

Lee M. Pouliot, AICP, ASLA, director of planning and development, and his team look forward to the process of developing the comprehensive plan and using it to make decisions and guide development efforts coordinated through the Planning Department. "Can you imagine trying to put together a large puzzle without knowing what it should look like when you're finished? That is what the Planning Department has been trying to do for years. With a comprehensive plan, we will have a clear direction regarding priority projects and funding needs to ensure such investments meet the broader community vision for the city."

Chicopee is a unique community full of a diversity of people and stories. By planning together, we hope that the community understands that each of us is part of what makes Chicopee special and that residents take active ownership of the city's future. We all should have a place at the table. Through this process, the community will outline a future that treats everyone fairly and equitably, providing resources and giving support where it is needed most. The city is also dedicated to its children and their families. Chicopee will be a place where people are proud to raise their children and where children are given the opportunity to own the future of their city. "Envision Our Chicopee: 2040 is a unique opportunity for all residents in Chicopee to have a say in how we see our future," Pouliot said. "Many residents grew up in Chicopee and worry their children won't stay for a variety of reasons. This plan gives us the chance to develop a clear vision for our city, tackling hard issues, and developing solutions that will ensure Chicopee remains attractive as a place to raise a family. With this plan, the city will capitalize on our unique characteristics and assets while assisting in prioritizing projects that bring our collective vision to life."

The most important goal of Envision Our Chicopee: 2040 is to protect and enhance the characteristics in Chicopee that make it a great place to live, both for today's residents and future generations.

As the comprehensive plan is developed through a community process, the city is using a variety of tools to reach Chicopee residents, business owners, and others with a stake in the City's future to get their input and ideas.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, traditional community engagement methods are being reimagined virtually. The Envision Our Chicopee: 2040 planning process will host an extended Virtual Public Open House starting on Aug.17 that will feature updates on the current planning process, with opportunities to collect resident feedback, culminating in a Virtual Community Workshop on Sept.3 at 7 p.m. To register for this event, please visit www.EnvisionOurChicopee2040.com.

The Planning Team has also developed something called "Meeting-in-a-Box" for individuals who are not interested in participating online. This is a pre-packaged kit that allows anyone to get together with a small group of family or friends (per current state standards for in-person gatherings) and review the same questions being discussed at the virtual workshop. Anyone interested in hosting a "Meeting-in-a-Box" should contact the Chicopee Planning Department at 413-594-1515 or by email at pmckenna@chicopeema.gov.

Everyone is also encouraged to visit the project website: www.EnvisionOurChicopee2040.com. In addition to being the landing page for the virtual public open house and workshop, this is where information on the planning process, including other upcoming events and future activities will be posted. Residents can also register on the website to receive email updates throughout the planning process.

The city has appointed a Steering Committee to guide the planning process. It is comprised of city staff, local boards, committees, organizations and residents of Chicopee. All meetings are open to the public; the Steering Committee meeting schedule is posted on the project website and is also available via the Planning Department. All meetings are currently being held via Zoom.

Common Capital approved as Western Mass SBA loan lender

SPRINGFIELD – Common Capital Inc. has been chosen by the U.S. Small Business Administration as a lender for the SBA's new, temporary loan product developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. "Community Advantage Recovery Loans" will provide technical and financial assistance to support small businesses located in underserved areas.

Community Advantage Relief Loans will provide financing and free business assistance to revamp business models in response to the COVID-19 environment and build financial resiliency against future disruptions. Loans must close by Sept.27, and borrowers may use the loans to make business investments such as physical, operational and strategic adaptations in response to COVID-19, including offering new products or services. Each borrower will also receive fifteen hours of free, one-on-one business assistance from Common Capital.

Common Capital specializes in providing loans to small businesses in Western Massachusetts for borrowers that are unable to obtain a traditional bank loan. The organization offers a variety of loan products to help small business owners recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and to adapt to the new economy. Loans range from $1,000 to $300,000; terms range from 1 to 10 years with interest rates between 8.25% and 10.0%. To apply, visit www.common-capital.org/get-a-loan.

"Common Capital encourages small business owners to reach out to us to learn more about all the loan products we offer, including the new SBA Community Advantage Relief Loans," said Raymond Lanza-Weil, president of Common Capital. "We can help businesses weather the COVID-19 storm and plan for future growth by renovating physical space to accommodate safety and social distancing, purchasing protective gear and cleaning supplies, developing new products and/or services, accessing new supply chains, and creating or expanding their online presence and sales capabilities."

Common Capital is a nonprofit community development financial institution working to strengthen communities by creating economic opportunities for low-and moderate-income people in Western Massachusetts. Common Capital responsibly lends money to small businesses that are unable to access all the capital they need from conventional sources, such as banks. Common Capital also provides free business assistance to its borrowers. Together, Common Capital's loans and business assistance support job creation, business growth and success, and neighborhood rejuvenation. For more information, please visit www.common-capital.org.

Important questions to consider children return to classrooms

SPRINGFIELD – Should children be returning to the classroom this fall?

It's a national debate. And, as of now, 55% of city school districts are going remote.

The big question is how students can go back to school safely with COVID-19 still in communities and rising in many parts of the country, including among children.

And, there isn't much time left to decide.

The latest American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advice says children learn best when they are in school. However, returning to school in person needs careful steps in place to keep students and staff safe.

Dr. John O'Reilly, chief, General Pediatrics at Baystate Children's Hospital, and a member of AAP, answers important questions about keeping children safe in school this fall.

Q: What questions should parents be asking their elementary/high schools about safety at the school before returning to the classroom?

A: There are many questions to consider, such as: How will social distancing be observed? Will there be handwashing stations or hand sanitizer available? How and when will masks be required? How will the use of shared surfaces be limited? What about the ventilation system?

The Harvard School of Public Health has put together a great site with 15 additional questions and associated answers to consider at:

https://schools.forhealth.org/risk-reduction-strategies-for-reopening-schools/faqs/

Q: What are the biggest risks to those returning to school, including students, parents and teachers?

A: The biggest risk is getting COVID 19, especially for someone with underlying medical conditions such as cancer, Type II diabetes, and asthma. The CDC offers a full list of those conditions at:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fneed-extra-precautions%2Fgroups-at-higher-risk.html.

If a child, parent/caretaker, teacher or school staff has one of those conditions, then they should talk to their medical provider about their medical condition and discuss their individual risk for COVID-19. For the most part, pediatric illness is mild, but parents should discuss their concerns with their pediatrician.

Q: What extra items should parents consider sending their children off to school with in their backpacks?

A: All of the necessary COVID protection gear: extra masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes. I don't think schools will be able to provide every child personal supplies.

Q: What would you advise a parent of a child with other chronic health conditions to do?

A: It depends on a number of factors. How severe is the child's illness, and how sick would that child get if they were to contract COVID? What is the community prevalence? If <5% there is less risk. If community spread is >5% they should do online schooling. What services/benefits does the child get in school, and how can the parent replace those benefits if the child does not go to school? Some of our patients with severe disabilities get many of their vital services, such as occupational, physical and speech therapy, as well as general nursing at school. We need to balance the benefit of those services with the risk for COVID in their specific school setting. My biggest advice is for parents to talk to their pediatrician and their school administrators to find the safest way to get their child in school, and if that is not possible, then how to ensure we maximize their online learning.

Q: Should parents drive their children to school instead of taking the bus?

A: If possible, yes.

Q: Should students play sports, can they safely?

A: I don't think we currently have the safety protocols in place that will allow for school sports. If we cannot do it for the Florida Marlins with their million dollar budgets, I don't think we can do it on a limited budget for schools.

Q: Other than social distancing, hand washing, masks, etc., what do you think are some of the most important things a parent can do to protect their child?

A: Vaccination to prevent other illnesses is the most important thing beyond the basics that parents can do to protect their children. We do not know what the "double whammy" impact of a child getting both the flu and COVID simultaneously or back-to-back will be, and we don't want to find out. I believe school systems have to add on the next layers of protection to keep our kids safe. Strategies such as:

· Staggering start/end times and class change times during the school day (lunch, recess, etc.), so there are not large numbers of students congregating in any one spot at any one time.

· Cohort students into small groups. This prevents the spread to large numbers of students when one student gets sick and allows for faster testing and contact tracing in that cohort when there is an exposure.

· Work on healthy school buildings/air quality and more:

https://www.scribd.com/document/470264461/Harvard-Healthy-Buildings-Program-Schools-for-Health-Reopening-Covid19-June2020

Q: What about sharing bathrooms at school?

A: Schools will have to adjust their cleaning regimens to meet the COVID requirements. It is important for parents to teach their kids about the personal hygiene regimen that will help them be safe in any public restroom, whether that is a school or a restaurant, including handwashing.

Q: What about mask wearing for children?

A: Mask wearing is a critical part of illness prevention and should be mandatory in schools for students in second grade and above per the American Academy of Pediatrics. Parents should be modeling mask wearing, teaching the importance of mask wearing, and practicing mask wearing at home, so kids are ready to do it in a school setting. The younger the child can wear a mask , then the better for the student and the school teachers and staff.

Q: What about those kids who can't wear a mask for health reasons?

A: The number of those kids will be very low, but if they can't, it becomes a health risk for classmates and school teachers and staff. In those rare circumstances (kids with traches, neuromuscular disease, etc.) the school should provide PPE for the school staff interacting with those students. The rationale for that comes from the science of masks. If a single-layer cloth mask reduces spread 60%, a double-layer mask (well-constructed and worn appropriately, of course) may increase that to ~80%. When 2 people with double-layered masks interact at an appropriate distance, that may increase to ~90%. If only one person in the interaction is wearing a mask, you are back to using a surgical mask or an N-95 mask, which will filter out ~95% of viral particles.

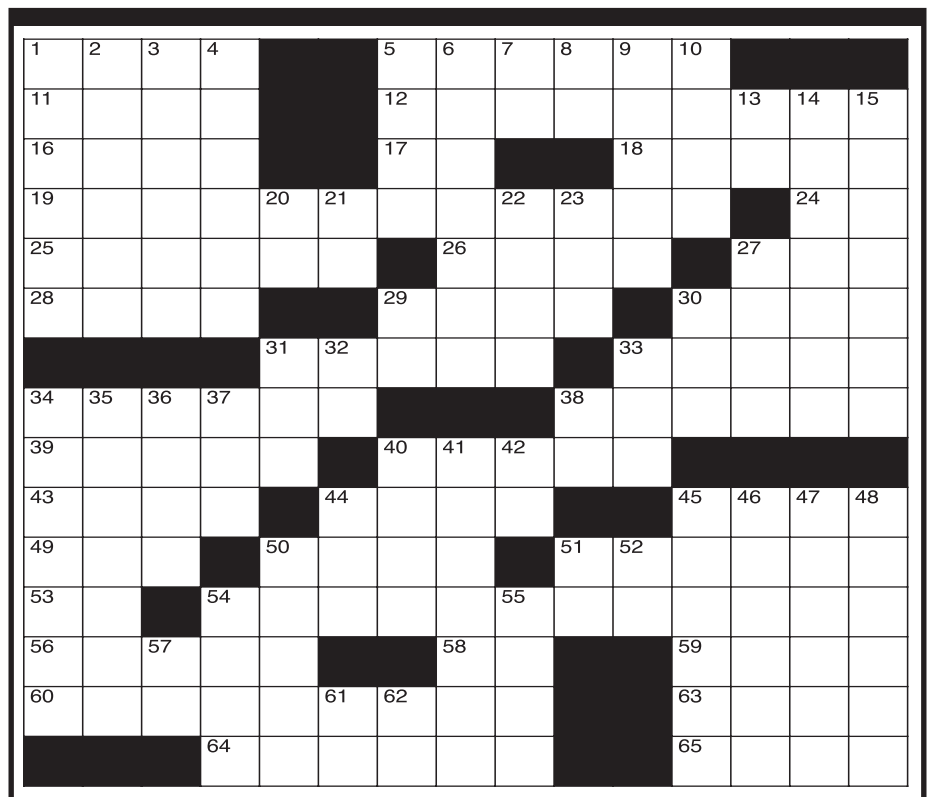
Q: Emotionally, do you think children will find what they know about the pandemic to be frightening and how can parents reassure their children?

A: I think everyone has a degree of fear and stress around COVID. Sometimes kids pick up on a parent's stress and fears and that makes the child's anxiety worse. I think we can use a younger kid's imagination to make masks a part of their superhero costume to fight the virus, and empower them in mask use by letting them decorate their masks, or have multiple masks to match multiple outfits and have the child choose their "mask of the day." For older students, parents can frame it as a way to protect classmates, their family and relatives with other medical conditions putting them at risk for COVID-19.

O'Reilly added that a recent South Korean study offered data that might prove helpful in the difficult decisions that parents and school officials are currently faced with.

The large study results showed that children younger than 10 transmit the coronavirus to others much less often than adults do, but the risk is not zero. Also, youngsters age 10-19 can spread the virus as easily as adults do and risk bringing it home to parents and at-risk grandparents who may be living with them.

For more information on Baystate Children's Hospital, visit baystatehealth.org/bch.



CLUES ACROSS
1. Corrode
5. Jean Paul __, author
11. Hebrew unit of dry measure
12. A type of scientist
16. Greek goddess of discord
17. For Red Sox MVP
18. It checks your speed
19. Made dirty
24. The First State
25. Lodgings
26. Spiritual leader
27. Bradley Int'l Airport code
28. Native American people
29. Sharp pain
30. Touch
31. Slowly disappears
33. Indigenous Russian people
34. Narrative poem
38. Some are bad
39. Small quill feathers
40. Tattles
43. Popular Easter entree
44. Beneficiary
45. Clothed
49. Payroll firm
50. Lower Normandy's largest city
51. Binary compound of halogen
53. The Fighting Irish
54. Skilled, paid worker
56. Eyelashes
58. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
59. Large, stocky lizard
60. Made poisonous
63. Former US Secretary of State
64. Sticky substances
65. A type of gin

CLUES DOWN
1. To return an echo
2. Displace
3. Japanese religion
4. Predilections
5. Partial
6. Poisonous plant
7. Road open
8. Atomic #81
9. Accomplished American composer
10. Oh, God!
13. Potato state
14. Most melancholic
15. Supportive framework
20. Hollywood's Pacino
21. A title for women
22. Popular Grammys alternative
23. Check
27. Bolivian river
29. South Dakota
30. Wonderful
31. Supervises flying
32. Commercial
33. More (Spanish)
34. Even distribution of weight
35. "Arabian Nights" hero
36. Compact mass of a substance
37. Bachelor of Laws
38. Halfback
40. Some of it is ground
41. They play in the trenches
42. Atomic #18
44. Chinese Prefecture
45. Fabrics
46. Being in a direct line of descent from an ancestor
47. In slow tempo
48. Flood
50. Long-necked bird
51. Secondary school
52. Artificial intelligence
54. Structure by the water
55. Lather
57. What happens there stays there
61. A bone
62. The Great Lakes State

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

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GUEST COLUMN

Questions on peppers and cucumbers

IN THE GARDEN

ROBERTA MCQUAID
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS COLUMNIST

Grandma visited today and questioned why her pickling cucumbers were "funny looking." She was hoping for blocky, straight fruit, but what she has are tapered to a point. Some even curl. Looks don't matter much to her but unfortunately they don't taste very good either. They are quite bitter. How can this be remedied?

This is an easy fix. Curling, bitter fruit are an indication that cucumber plants are crying out for more water, and it is no wonder with the drought we are having. They are shallow rooted and depend on a steady amount of moisture to grow evenly. Your goal should be an inch of rain per week. Sometimes summer rains are deceiving; while you think that passing shower saturated the earth, chances are it didn't.

Just for the fun of it, set up a homemade rain gauge in the garden. This way you can see for yourself just how much rain we are actually getting. Simply position an empty tuna fish can marked in quarter-inch increments among your plants. You can even leave it there while your sprinkler is at work or while you hand water as normal. After each "rainfall" record your results, and at the end of the week, make up the difference to achieve the desired one inch. I don't expect you to be this fussy all the time, but this little experiment will give you a sense of how little or much rain you and Mother Nature are actually providing to your plants. While we have little say in what falls from the sky, we can make adjustments to our sprinkler timers. Another way to help out your cukes would be to provide their shallow roots with a little mulch. The mulch will regulate moisture and prevent weed competition. Accomplish this well after your plants are up and growing, and of course, don't pile it up too close to the stem.

This question came from Robin, who gardens in Hardwick: "My pepper plants are laden with fruit but slow to turn color. When will they be ready to harvest? I'd like to preserve them somehow for use over the winter. What would you suggest?"

Usually you will have to wait at least two to three weeks after green peppers have reached full size before they will ripen completely. Now you know why colored peppers command a higher price than their green counterparts, they are taking up space on the plant for a longer period and because of that inhibiting, to some degree anyway, new fruits from forming. In our part of the country it is smart to search out pepper varieties that reach maturity in the fewest number of days. Look for those marked 80 days or less.

See GARDEN page 8

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: The Chicopee Register,
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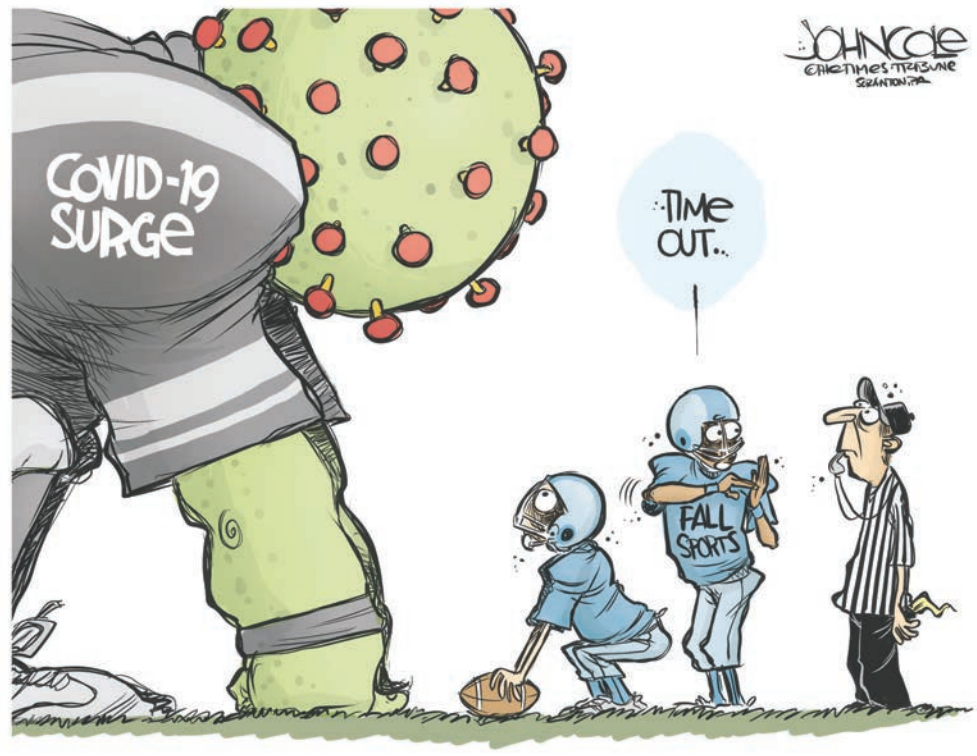

GUEST COLUMN

Just me and the mountain: Overcoming the fear of solo hiking

By Julie Midura

Since we began hiking regularly in 2016, our summer vacations have taken on a new look. No longer are our days filled with relaxing by the lake, floating lazily down the river on an enormous inner tube, dining out or shopping at the local outlet center. Our idea of an incredible vacation is one in which, by the end of the day, we're so exhausted that we barely have enough energy to walk from the car to the door of the house that we rented. 'Dining out' means eating a PB&J on the summit of a mountain, and the only shopping we do is at the nearest outdoor gear store.

We hike to escape from the artificial things of this world and to immerse ourselves in the natural beauty of our earth. Because what could possibly be more beautiful than a molten lava sunrise viewed from a mountaintop... or meandering through a glade of paper-white birch trees... or a fog-enshrouded forest on a rainy summer morning... or walking beside a brook and hearing the gentle sound of the cascades and the roaring power of a waterfall... or watching the sun slowly dip below the horizon before crawling into your tent for the night. We were blessed to have witnessed all of that and so much more as we sauntered on the dirt and rock-strewn paths over the past two weeks.

In the span of fourteen days, we hiked to the summits of 22 mountains, and completed a hike through a ravine which required us to scramble- using our hands as much as our feet- up, over, and between car sized boulders for close to a mile. We completed an overnight backpacking trip with our son, Alex, and daughter, Emelie, which included six 4,000-foot mountains... the Wildcats, the Carters, and Mt. Hight. We stealth-camped close enough to the summit to watch sunset and sunrise from 4,675 feet above sea level.

Sitting beside our children on a mountaintop while watching that bright yellow orb explode with light as it disappeared below the mountains in the distance is a moment that will be etched in my mind forever.

In addition to hiking with my family, I had the opportunity to face one of my biggest fears... hiking solo in the dead of night. There's a saying that describes my solo hike up 4,760-foot Mt. Eisenhower perfectly; "Sometimes the fear won't go away, so you have to do it afraid."

Every now and then, Tom is unable to join me on a hike, so I go solo. Some of my solo hikes have forced me to step out of my comfort zone. In spite of the fear, I've done a one-night backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail and a winter hike up a 4,000-foot mountain alone. I believe that some of our greatest accomplishments come when we move beyond our self-imposed limits. Those are the times that we can either fail... or we can fly.

So, since Tom had to go back to Mass. mid-vacation to work for a few days, I decided that I would face my fears and attempt my first solo night hike. My alarm went off at 1 a.m. and I drove to Edmunds Path Trailhead. The round-trip hike is seven and a half miles. I turned on my headlamp, stepped out of my car, and took my first steps into the pitch-black forest. While I'd love to say that the fear immediately vanished when I stepped onto that path, I'd be lying. Instead, my heart was beating furiously, and every ounce of my being was telling me to turn around and get back into my car where it was safe.

But I refused to listen to that voice in my head. Instead, I took a deep breath and continued forward, with only the beam of my headlamp to guide me. My biggest fear was encountering a black bear, and my senses were on high alert. I was certain that every sound I heard was a bear lurking in the woods beside me. How did I manage to get past the fear? Let's just say that my trekking poles may or may not have dents in them from clinking them together every two minutes as I walked. (Word on the street is that bears won't eat you if they hear you coming, right?)

When I wasn't clicking my poles together, I was talking to myself... out loud... a LOT. I'm convinced that with all of that clicking and talking, the bears decided it would be wise to avoid the crazy woman on Edmunds Path.

As I broke above the tree line, I began to make out the faint distinction between sky and trees. The conifers looked like black silhouettes against the midnight blue sky. By the time I arrived on the bare, wide open, rocky summit at 5 a.m., the sun was just beginning to reveal itself. I unfolded my sleep pad, stretched my legs out in front of me, and reclined against my backpack to watch an awe-inspiring light show of reds and yellows so vivid that it looked as though the sky was on fire. I spent over an hour on the summit in complete solitude, and never saw another soul. It was though I was on my own private mountain.

The hike back down was much quieter than the hike up. My arms were tired and my throat was hoarse from all of that clicking and talking on the way up. And besides, bears don't come out when it's light out... right?!

My initial fear was so great in the moments leading up to this solo hike that I almost decided not to go. But then I realized that I'd never know just how much I am ca-

See HIKING page 8

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

The Chicopee Register welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our "People News," is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence along with a photo to chicopeeregister@turley.com or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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The completed mural of local resident, Bernard "Bunny" Murray, in Chicopee, painted by local artist, Johnny Miranda.

Chicopee artist, Johnny Miranda, paints a mural of Chicopee icon Bernard "Bunny" Murray, on a local gas station wall.

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Chicopee artist Johnny Miranda works on a mural of Bernard "Bunny" Murray, a resident many are familiar with as he waves to one and all.

Johnny Miranda worked on the mural of well-known resident, Bunny, as part of the Cultural Council's series of murals in Chicopee this summer.

MURAL from page 1

pose than us," he said.

To this day, Murray continues to encourage his fellow residents by offering a never-ending supply of heartfelt waves.

Miranda noted that Murray is extremely excited about the mural, which provided Miranda with extra incentive to create a lasting work of art.

"[Painting at a busy intersection] is a little bit revealing for an artist. It's also a little bit of pressure; everyone's looking at you so you better do a good job. When cars honk and people support it though it can be humbling and flattering," said Miranda.

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HIKING from page 6

pable of unless I take that leap. And as I found out when I stepped onto the magnificent summit of Mt. Eisenhower as the sun lit up the sky with a kaleidoscope of colors... I can FLY!

Life really does begin at the end of our comfort zone.

Peace, and Hike On, friends!

Julie Midura is a local outdoor enthusiast.

Julie Midura 4: Julie Midura, taking a much-needed break on Howker Ridge Trail to Mt. Madison. *COURTESY PHOTO*

GARDEN from page 6

Freezing peppers is super easy, and there is no blanching necessary. Simply cut your peppers into slices and prefreeze them on a cookie sheet. Once they are frozen you can put them into freezer bags and grab a handful or two as needed.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

School opening decisions could affect sports return

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – With a number of school districts already declaring whether or not they will engage in regular in-person learning, remote-only learning, or hybrid situations where students would spend some time in school and some time out of school, the MIAA will need to consider the consequences of those decisions while determining when and how student-athletes will be able to hit the fields.

The MIAA Board of Directors recently voted to move the start of the season to at least Sept. 14. That would likely mean the soonest games could start would be near the end of September. Football could take longer if it is allowed to be played.

Also to keep in mind for the MIAA is the recent decision by Gov. Charlie Baker to put any further phases or parts of phases of re-opening on hold due to small increases new cases.

When Phase 3 of the re-opening plan took effect on July 6, it limited the ability for people to play soccer, basketball, football, and lacrosse. While practices could occur, games and other types of contests were not allowed at any level.

This cancelled the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League, as well as the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League, and various other leagues that play in the summer months. Only baseball and softball games have been played during the month.

With Baker putting further parts of Phase 3 on hold and rolling back crowd numbers on outdoor gatherings, it is possible that football and soccer games may not be allowed to play unless an exception is made at the high school level, or numbers of new coronavirus cases significantly improve soon.

But the decisions by schools also could make play of sports difficult. With some schools like Springfield, Longmeadow, and East Longmeadow going all remote, it could be difficult for eligibility to appear in games to be determined. Other school districts, like Southwick, are giving students and their families the choice of doing a hybrid model or remote only, which means some students will in school a limited number of days per week.

Agawam recently voted to have a hybrid learning model and bring students back to school as much as possible.

Other school districts will be making their decisions this week and next. All schools must be submitting plans to the state for multiple situations sometime in the next week.

School starts are also supposed be delayed for two weeks for additional COVID-related testing for teachers.

Following the first few decisions being made, the MIAA did release this brief statement to schools.

"As school Districts decide the format of their school re-opening plans," the MIAA states. "The MIAA is fielding questions about the impact of those decisions on interscholastic athletics from school constituents, School Committees, Superintendents, school leaders and media outlets. Please be advised the Association has no current policy which negates any athletic participation relative to a District's school re-opening plans. Members will be notified if there is any future modification to this guidance."

The MIAA will likely be meeting again sometime this month, though a date has to be determined.

HALL OF FAME

Volleyball induction cancelled for 2020

HOLYOKE – The Board of Directors of the International Volleyball Hall of Fame has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Hall of Fame Induction Celebration due to safety concerns for the international event that takes place at venues in Holyoke and throughout Western Massachusetts.

"Induction weekend is a celebration of our sport and its greatest legends, and while we are disappointed to cancel this incredibly special event, the Board of Directors' overriding concern is the health and well-being of those who travel from all over the world to celebrate with us," said IVHF Executive Director George Mulry.

This will be only the second time since the first induction was held in 1985 that the annual celebration will not be held. There will not be a designated induction Class of 2020. Instead, the IVHF will recognize its next class of inductees in the fall of 2021.

"We looked at every possible option to hold the event in 2020 including hosting a virtual Induction but it was clear that the right decision was to cancel," stated Mulry.

See INDUCTION page 10

Pandemic eliminates August playoffs

Last year, PeoplesBank of the Tri-County Baseball League won its seventh straight playoff championship in the American Division. Tri-County cancelled its American Division season, while teams in the National Division played in their own league this summer. *FILE PHOTOS*

Spec Pond was not buzzing in the second week of August as the summer basketball league was cancelled when Gov. Baker barred basketball contests from being played.

The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League was another casualty of the governor's ban on "at-risk" sports.

The PVSSL also featured an adult league that was not able to play. All of the summer leagues hope to be back in action next summer.

Massachusetts residents in hunt for amateurs

NORTON – A trio of Massachusetts residents are on the West Coast this week for the 120th U.S. Amateur Championship at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort in Brandon, Oregon. The stroke-play portion of the event begins Monday, August 10 at both the Bandon Dunes and Bandon Trails courses.

Matt Parziale (Thorny Lea Golf Club), of Brockton, Michael Thorbjornsen (Wellesley County Club), of Wellesley, and Davis Chatfield, of Attleboro, will be among the 264 players in the exempt-only field. All three competed at the 2019 U.S. Amateur.

Based on changes following the COVID-19 outbreak, all qualifying events for the U.S. Amateur were canceled, and the 264-player field (down from the normal 312) was set using a set of exemption categories, expanded use of the World Amateur Golf Rankings and finishes in recent United States Golf Association (USGA) Championships.

Matt Parziale is playing in the U.S. Amateur for the third straight year.

The stroke-play portion of the event begins Monday morning. Following the completion of 36 holes of stroke play Tuesday, the top 64 competitors will advance to match play on Wednesday. The Championship will conclude with a 36-hole match on Sunday to crown the U.S. Amateur champion, and the entire match play portion of the championship will be conducted on the Bandon Dunes layout, which will play at roughly 7,052 yards with a par of 72. Bandon Trails plays at roughly 6,823 yards with a par of 71.

"It's something to look forward to, to compete for a national championship," Parziale said. "I'm happy to be able to compete again, and I'm glad we're able to figure out a way to be able to get this to work."

MATT PARZIALE

Parziale, 33, qualified through playing at the 2019 U.S. Open and winning the 2017 U.S. Mid-Amateur. He has also played in the last two U.S. Amateur Championships. This year, Parziale made the semifinals of the Massachusetts Amateur, finished T9 at the Ouimet Memorial Tournament and won the Brockton City Open. The six-time Richard D. Haskell Mass Golf Player of the Year played at Bandon Dunes with Herbie Aikens (Old Sandwich GC) at the 2019 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball. However, he played on the Pacific Dunes and Old Macdonald courses.

MICHAEL THORNBJORSEN

Thornbjorsen, 18, who is heading to Stanford University in the fall, also qualified through playing and making the cut at the 2019 U.S. Open. This will be his sixth USGA championship for the 2018 U.S. Junior Amateur champion. Last month he finished 38th overall at the Sunnehanna Amateur in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

DAVIS CHATFIELD

Chatfield, 21, who plays for the University of Notre Dame, made the Round of 32 at the U.S. Amateur back in 2018. This year, he finished 100th at The Western Amateur Championship.

Amherst College announces golf program changes

AMHERST — Elizabeth Davis has been promoted to head coach of the men's and women's golf programs, it was announced today by Director of Athletics Don Faulstick. Jack Arena '83, who had been the Mammoths' lone head coach of two varsity programs, will stay on as an assistant coach of the men's golf team in 2020-21 and will continue to serve as head coach of Amherst's men's hockey team, where he has led the Mammoths for the past 37 seasons.

Davis, the head coach of the women's golf program since the 2016-17 season, becomes the second female head coach of a men's program in Amherst College history. She joins men's and women's cross country head coach Cassie Funke-Harris, who took over the helm of both of those programs in 2018.

"I've been so impressed by Elizabeth's leadership in her relatively short time at Amherst," said Faulstick. "She has been a great mentor and teacher since her arrival, and I have no doubt we will continue to have great success in both programs under her guidance. She has all the tools to make this transition an amazing experience for both teams."

Named the 2016-17 Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) East Region Coach of the Year and the 2017 NESCAC Women's Golf Coach of the Year, Davis has mentored eight All-NESCAC and three All-Region honorees while leading the women's golf program to seven first place finishes in her first four seasons. Earning a bid to the NCAA Championships for the first time since 2009, and fourth time overall, Davis' Mammoths finished ninth at the national competition in 2017 before returning in 2018 and placing 14th overall.

A graduate of University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB), Davis was a standout member of the 2013 NCAA Division III National Team Champion squad and was named the team's most valuable player after leading the program to a nNational runner-up finish in 2014.

Davis takes the reins of the men's golf program from Arena, an alumnus of the College who began his coaching career at Amherst in 1983-84 as the head coach of the men's ice hockey program before also being named the head coach of men's golf in 1993.

"I have been very fortunate to work with Jack for the past four years," said Davis. "He is someone who exemplifies the unwavering qualities it takes to be a successful college head coach, and his leadership and dedication to the Amherst College golf program and our student-athletes is unmatched. He is highly respected among both his peers and the students. I look forward to continuing to work with Jack to enhance Amherst College's overall golf program, and I want to thank him for trusting me with the leadership of it."

"I'm excited to have Coach Davis take leadership of both of the Amherst golf programs," said Arena. "I've observed many coaches over the years, but few have impressed me as much as Elizabeth. Her enthusiasm, knowledge of the game, competitive spirit and love for Amherst and Amherst golf make her the perfect choice to direct both teams moving forward."

Arena led Amherst to the NESCAC title in his inaugural season. The 2010 NESCAC Men's Golf Coach of the Year, Arena steps down having guided the Mammoths to four NESCAC crowns and two NCAA Division III Championship appearances. He also holds the honor of helping snap Williams College's streak of 14 consecutive Little Three titles after Amherst clinched the Little Three Championship crown in 2011-12.

"I was fortunate to inherit the men's team from Tracy Mehr and have always felt a responsibility to continue the program in a way that would meet and further his vision," Arena continued. "I believe this is the right time and Coach Davis is the right person to continue that legacy. A legacy that makes Amherst, Amherst Athletics and everyone who has been associated with Amherst Golf proud to be a part of. I look forward to staying actively involved with the teams and supporting her in every way possible."

"Jack's dedication and success in both programs, quite a rarity, has been stellar," Faulstick continued. "I'm excited that he'll remain as a resource and assistant coach with the program. I certainly thank him for his tremendous contributions to the program and our students as the head coach."

Raised COVID-19 concerns cancel Thompson racing

THOMPSON, Conn. – Due to mounting concerns over the health and economic effects of COVID-19, Econn Motorsports announced today they are not moving forward with the traditional Bud 150 which had been scheduled for August 19th at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park. An open practice previously scheduled for August 5th has also been canceled. The recent outbreaks of COVID-19 cases associated with professional sporting events was chief among the reasons for the decision.

"We had initially thought that the virus would be of minimal concern by now, but the numbers are still very concerning", said Terry Eames of Econn Motorsports. "We remain committed to keeping oval track racing alive at Thompson and will continue to work with the Hoenig family about the possibility of events later in the year."

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Baseball clinics to take place

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department in conjunction with the John Murphy Youth Baseball League will be conducting baseball clinics. To sign up for the clinic, please contact Coach Terry Murphy at tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net.

Clinics will follow all of the board of health requirements regarding masks, spacing and cleaning of equipment. Players with their own bats and helmets or catcher's gear are encouraged to bring to the clinic. All clinics to take place at Mackenzie Field free of charge for Holyoke residents, $10 for non-residents.

Clinics will be run by former Holyoke Community College baseball coach Terry Murphy. He will be assisted by Bob Prattico, former Holyoke Catholic coach, Mike Afflitto, Smith Academy coach, and Mike Prattico, Amherst High School coach. Added to the coaching staff is Dioni Soriano Bello, a former player in Japan and Latin America. They will also be assisted by several former high school players as well. A trainer will also be on hand for each session.

Potential Baseball Clinics Schedule:

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 10 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 7-10)

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 14-17)

Thursday, Aug. 13, 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 11-13)

Monday, Aug. 17, 10 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 7-10)

Wednesday, Aug. 19, 10 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 11-13)

Wednesday, Aug. 19, 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 14-17)

Thursday, August 20 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 7-10)

Wednesday, Aug. 26, 10 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 14-17)

Wednesday, Aug. 26, 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 11-13)

INDUCTION from page 9

"Most importantly, we strive to honor the inductees in the proper way they are most deserving of. Our next Induction Class should enjoy the same wonderful experience in the Birthplace of Volleyball as previous classes and they will have that opportunity next Fall."

There is still one major event on the IVHF calendar for 2020. The Nationwide Charity Ride & Run, a collection of virtual bike and running events along with in-person Motorcycle rides will take place across the U.S. September 12-13, 2020. For more information on the Nationwide Charity Ride & Run please visit VolleyHall.org/NationwideRide.

Tabarek Al-Kowami awarded $3,000 scholarship

CHICOPEE – Tabarek Al-Kowami, a 2020 graduate of Chicopee High School, has been awarded a $3,000 Certificate of Award from the Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, an affiliate with Westfield Bank. Al-Kowami is one of 11 highly deserving scholarship recipients from 12 local high schools that were invited to participate in the Foundation's 14th annual scholarship program. Since inception, the Foundation has dispersed over 100 academic scholarships totaling in excess of $300,000.

Al-Kowami was selected due her exceptional academic achievements, her ability to balance her academics with a variety of school and community activities, her strong ethics and her leadership and organizational skills.

Al-Kowami's impressive curriculum consisted of a many honors and advanced placement courses and she is the recipient of numerous academic achievement awards in math, English, biology and history. Al-Kowami graduated in the top ten of her class with a 4.0 GPA and plans to pursue a career in business. She will be continuing her education at Western New England University.

Tabarek Al-Kowami

Al-Kowami served as vice president of the Chicopee High School Multicultural Math Club and as treasurer of the school's National Honor Society. She was a member of the Art and Tennis Clubs. She is fluent in three languages.

Al-Kowami's passion for volunteering and helping those in need was evidenced by her organization of an American Red Cross Blood Drive at her school as well as a non-perishable food donation drive for Lorraine's Soup Kitchen. She also volunteered for many worthy causes including Paws for Paws, the Rays of Hope Walk for A Cure and school fundraisers.

The Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation was established and funded in 2006 through a gift of stock, then valued at $5.5 million, upon the successful conversion of Legacy Chicopee Savings Bank to a publicly-traded company. In 2016, the Foundation became affiliated with Westfield Bank and the Foundation's stock holdings were converted to Western New England Bancorp Inc., the holding company for Westfield Bank. Since inception, the Foundation has granted nearly $5 million, through its grant application process, to hundreds of qualified 501c3 organizations within the Foundation's regulated catchment area.

Liebersbach graduates from the University of Wisconsin - Madison

MADISON, Wisconsin – Nearly 8,500 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison during a unique online commencement ceremony on May 9, including Piotr Liebersbach, of Chicopee, Massachusetts. He graduated with a master's degree in mechanical engineering from the College of Engineering.

The ceremony, forced online because of the coronavirus pandemic, was for doctoral, bachelor's, master's and law graduates.

Best-selling author James Patterson, the commencement speaker, counseled graduates on persistence and resilience, telling them, "Hey, it's hard now, but it's been hard before. When I graduated from college, the war in Vietnam was raging, there was a draft . . . When my dad graduated, he got shipped off to Europe and WW II."

Chancellor Rebecca Blank praised graduates for the way they handled their unprecedented final semester - in-person instruction ended in March, and she thanked their family and friends for helping them through it all.

Some graduates will face a longer job search than expected, Blank said. Others will face personal pain from unexpected family loss or will end up doing very different things next year than they might have expected.

"But when we are past this crisis, you will also see many new opportunities - opportunities to re-engage the economy, to re-build personal connections, and to figure out how to live together in ways that reduce the threat of future pandemics," Blank said. "Our world will change permanently because of this global shared experience. Your diploma from this great public university is your ticket to be part of that change."

In addition to Saturday's virtual ceremony, numerous famous Badger alumni posted shout-outs on social media, including soccer star Rose Lavelle, Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson, U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, and Tony Award-winning actor, Andre De Shields, who sang a bit for graduates. On May 8, the UW Athletic Department lit Camp Randall and the Kohl Center in red to honor the Class of 2020.

To ease the sting of the last few months, the Wisconsin Union announced it would provide all graduates with lifetime memberships, a first in the association's more than 110-year history. Additionally, the Wisconsin Alumni Association is giving graduates two free years of membership.

For more information about UW-Madison, visit http://www.wisc.edu.

Giavanni Thomson awarded $3,000 scholarship award

CHICOPEE – Giavanni Thomson, a 2020 graduate of Chicopee Comprehensive High School, has been awarded a $3,000 Certificate of Award from the Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, an affiliate with Westfield Bank. Thomson is one of 11 highly deserving scholarship recipients from 12 local high schools that were invited to participate in the Foundation's 14th annual scholarship program. Since inception, the Foundation has dispersed over 100 academic scholarships totaling in excess of $300,000.

Thomson was selected due her exceptional academic achievements, her ability to balance her academics with a variety of activities, and her drive to be successful in her chosen field. Thomson's impressive curriculum consisted of many advanced placement and dual enrollment classes as well as a wide variety of self-enrichment courses. Notwithstanding the demands of her rigorous course study and extracurricular activities, Thomson graduated with a 4.0 GPA. Thomson plans to pursue a career in animal science, focusing on large and exotic animals, and will be continuing her education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Thomson's exceptional drive has led her to participate in the Meteorology and Self-Defense program at the U.S. Naval Academy in Maryland, an ecological laboratory at Mount Holyoke College, a forensic anthropology course and equine program at the University of Massachusetts and medical courses at Baystate Medical Center. Thomson is a recipient of the Boston Medical Scholar Award.

Thomson was also an active member of many Chicopee Comprehensive High School clubs and athletic programs. She was a member of the school's Art Club, Key Club, and Ecology Club as well as the varsity basketball team and track and field team. Her service activities included preparing meals at AMVETS and walking dogs for the Dakin Humane Society.

The Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation was established and funded in 2006 through a gift of stock, then valued at $5.5 million, upon the successful conversion of Legacy Chicopee Savings Bank to a publicly traded company. In 2016, the Foundation became affiliated with Westfield Bank and the Foundation's stock holdings were converted to Western New England Bancorp Inc., the holding company for Westfield Bank. Since inception, the Foundation has granted nearly $5 million, through its grant application process, to hundreds of qualified 501c3 organizations within the Foundation's regulated catchment area.

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Chicopee Register

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary,** costing $120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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EDITOR POSITION

Award-winning, family-owned Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking an energetic person to join them as editor of two of its weekly papers.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and have telling a community's stories in their DNA. They must also successfully execute an array of tasks including managing a staff writer, copy editing and guiding coverage. The editor is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other companywide publications.

If you're a self-starter who enjoys community journalism, who in fact might consider it a calling, and who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, we encourage you to apply for this position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Own camera and photography experience preferred
- Editing experience and the ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication

Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for our editor's position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to Managing Editor Eileen Kennedy at ekennedy@turley.com.

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Chicopee Education Association members advocate for the district to adopt a full-remote learning model outside of the Aug. 5 School Committee meeting at Chicopee Comprehensive High School. *TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI*

Akzel Dahl was one of the youngest members of the Chicopee Education Association rally on Aug. 5. To ensure safety, she promotes a remote learning format for the upcoming school year.

Left to right Payton Smalley and Kimberly Kolek bottom stand with Annie Ralston and Maryanne Porter at a CEA rally for remote learning.

A Chicopee police officer stationed outside of Chicopee Comprehensive High School denies a resident access to the School Committee meeting as the maximum attendance had already been reached.

TEACHERS from page 1

Comp prior to the meeting. Many felt as though it was their only opportunity to be heard, as was explained by longtime Bowie School teacher Christine Oliver.

"The three models are very elaborate, and the city put together a very comprehensive plan, but when the teachers have asked for involvement, we've been denied involvement," she said. "Although the plan is elaborate and seems to answer a lot of the questions, it doesn't answer the specific needs that we need to keep our children as safe as possible."

Chief among the CEA's concerns is the district's lack of clarity regarding items such as contact tracing and Personal Protection Equipment training. Clark's office submitted a 46-page plan, but its contents failed to satisfy Oliver and many of her colleagues.

"There's nothing solid in writing, and the School Committee is going to vote on a plan that just isn't going to work so we're advocating for a remote start," said Oliver. "All of us want to do our jobs. It's not that we don't want to teach; we love our jobs and we love our students, but we cannot keep them safe, and that's the bottom line here. It's lives versus livelihood."

Many of the CEA members present at the rally felt strongly that DESE "dropped the ball," as was said by paraprofessional Karen Nealon. By requesting that each district submit three separate plans, the CEA hinted at its sentiment that DESE took a step back when it should have assumed greater leadership.

"DESE didn't give us everything that we needed," said Nealon. "We want all of the students back in school with all of the staff but we cannot have that until we have safe health protocols. They have to have all the rules down and established so that everyone can follow them. We also want proper testing."

Demakis expressed her desire to return to in-person learning when the time is right. From her perspective, this is not the proper time to take such a drastic and potentially dangerous measure; she referred to the fact that Chicopee's rate for a positive Covid-19 tests is hovering around 3%, as was reported recently by Mayor John Vieau.

"We are not willing to sacrifice three percent of our [school] population, which is over 200 students and 30 staff, to Covid-19 when there are other options," said Demakis. "Families trust educators to do what is right and in the best interests of the students they serve. After reviewing data from DESE reports, district plans, scientific research, OSHA data and CDC recommendations, we have yet to see a proposed model that we feel would keep our students, staff and community safe."

The School Committee is expected to make its final decision on Aug.12.

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 6:30 PM*** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under 275-67 & 275-67 (K)(3)(b) for the purpose of the construction of a proposed multi-family development and waiver of parking requirement from 88 to 75 spaces located at 0 Oak Street (Parcel ID 147-5H). Applicant – Craig Authier, 1421 Granby Rd., Chicopee, MA 01020.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications

***COVID-19:** Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, the August 26, 2020 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. As required, alternative public access to this hearing shall be provided in the following manner: The hearing will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Anyone wishing to participate either in person in the Chambers or remotely shall, provide notice to the Office of the City Council by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov by August 24, 2020. Those giving such notice will need to identify the public hearing and provide their name, address and contact phone number to minimize the potential for zoom bombing of the meeting and if attending in person to be screened as required by the City of Chicopee. The hearing will be available for viewing on Spectrum Access Channel 191 or the Chicopee TV website Facebook.com/ChicopeeTV and or https://vimeo.com/chicopeetv.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.
08/06, 08/13/20

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Zone Change application from Residence A to Mill Conversion and Commercial Center Overlay District for 1.28 acres of property located at 10 Southwick St. for the purpose of redeveloping a currently vacant former schoolhouse into a multi-family residence. Applicant – Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., Stephen C. Huntley, Executive Director, 35 Mt. Carmel Ave., Chicopee, MA 01013.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications

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CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

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Special Permit under 275-52 (B) (13) for the purpose of an animal kennel for 4 pets, 2 Shih Tzus, 1 Lhasa Apso, 1 Bichon Frise/Shih Tzu mix located at 14 Pajak St. Applicant – Linda Payne, 14 Pajak St., Chicopee, MA 01013.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications

***COVID-19:** Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, the August 26, 2020 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. As required, alternative public access to this hearing shall be provided in the following manner: The hearing will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Anyone wishing to participate either in person in the Chambers or remotely shall, provide notice to the Office of the City Council by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov by August 24, 2020. Those giving such notice will need to identify the public hearing and provide their name, address and contact phone number to minimize the potential for zoom bombing of the meeting and if attending in person to be screened as required by the City of Chicopee. The hearing will be available for viewing on Spectrum Access Channel 191 or the Chicopee TV website Facebook.com/ChicopeeTV and or https://vimeo.com/chicopeetv.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.
08/06, 08/13/20

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Zone Change application from Residential A to Residential B for .9043 acres of property located at 107 Edward St. for the purpose of building a new single family house. Applicant – DGL Properties, LLC, Gary Stamborski, 70 N. Chicopee St., Chicopee, MA 01020.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications

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08/06, 08/13/20

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Ordinance Amendment - Chapter 275-40; Replace 275-40(D) "Residential Use Parking Restrictions" with new language and add definitions; full text available in the Office of the City Council. Applicant: Councilor William Courchesne (Ward 7), City Council Office, City Hall Annex, 274 Front St., Chicopee, MA.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications

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08/06, 08/13/20

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1998 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX
VIN: 1G2WP5214WF217506
Barbara Pelletier
176 Lenox Ave
Pittsfield, MA 01201

1999 BUELL LIGHTNING
VIN: 4MZSS11J0X3202471
Elsie Wallace
58 Liberty St
Stamford, CT 06902

2002 HONDA CIVIC
VIN: 1HGES25802L057330
Gabriel Ruiz
14219 Triskett Rd
Cleveland, OH 44101

2003 DODGE DAKOTA
VIN: 1D7HL32X73S110368
Henry Deaza Peralta
50 Southampton Rd, Apt 12B
Westfield, MA 01085

2003 HONDA CR-V
VIN: SHSRD784X3U105803
Annette Blair
1539 Town Hill Rd
Wolcott, VT 05680

2003 HONDA ODYSSEY
VIN: 2HKRL18093H502196
Cameron Harrell
211 E Baltimore Ave
Clifton Heights, PA 19018

2004 CADILLAC SRX
VIN: 1GYEE637340177094
Motor City Car Company
91 Ramah Cir S
Agawam, MA 01001

2005 KIA SORENTO
VIN: KNDJC733555375502
Dixie Torres
PO Box 371
Springfield, MA 01001

2005 SUBARU IMPREZA
VIN: JF1GD67555G526118
Johnathan Rivera
101 Bancroft St
Springfield, MA 01107

2006 HONDA CIVIC
VIN: 1HGFA16826L122894
Roney Morales
286 Griffin St, Apt 2E
Fall River, MA 02724

2007 SATURN ION
VIN: 1G8AJ55F77Z163093
Julie Quimby
14 Butler St
Skowheagan, ME 04976

2010 CHEVROLET COBALT
VIN: 1G1AB5F59A7120072
Caleb Cerda
2305 Jacobs Ladder Rd
Beckett, MA 01223

2013 SUBARU IMPREZA
VIN: JF1GPAC6XD2899434
Brenda Sweet
65 Worcester Rd
Charlton, MA 01507

2015 KIA OPTIMA
VIN: 5XXGN4A78FG421264
Lujesha Minnifield White
19 Hawthorne St
Springfield, MA 01105

8/13, 8/20, 8/27/2020

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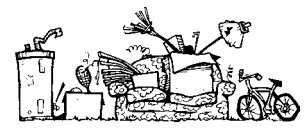

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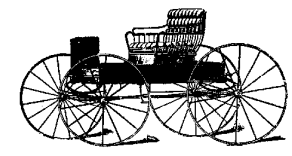

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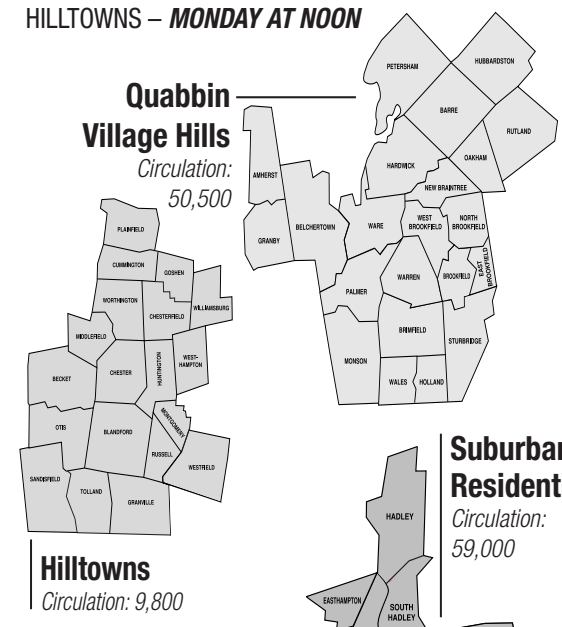
25 Base Price $28.50	26 Base Price $29.00	27 Base Price $29.50	28 Base Price $30.00
29 Base Price $30.50	30 Base Price $31.00	31 Base Price $31.50	32 Base Price $32.00
33 Base Price $32.50	34 Base Price $33.00	35 Base Price $33.50	36 Base Price $34.00
37 Base Price $34.50	38 Base Price $35.00	39 Base Price $35.50	40 Base Price $36.00



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A 'gap year' at STCC enables students to continue college plan

SPRINGFIELD – The COVID-19 pandemic has led many high school seniors who were considering going away to a four-year college or university to consider a local alternative: Springfield Technical Community College.

Much of the appeal of a four-year college or university stems from the experience of leaving home, living in a dorm and meeting new friends. Many students who choose four-year institutions enjoy exploring a large campus, attending big events and living in a new community.

But the pandemic will no doubt alter the experience at four-year colleges and universities this fall. Many recent high school graduates are choosing to enroll at their community college, which is the more affordable option during difficult times.

Knowing about STCC's reputation, incoming first-year student Sara Maria of Ludlow said she had considered starting as a transfer student even before the COVID-19 crisis.

"The fact that we are in [a pandemic] definitely pushed me to stay at home and go to STCC for at least two more years. I'll then transfer to a big school to be with a big group of students," she said.

Maria was strongly considering Syracuse University before the COVID-19 crisis.

Because of the health pandemic, many four-year colleges or universities have restricted access to their campuses and converted to online instruction to ensure safety of faculty, staff and students. Online instruction means the students can take courses from their homes.

Maria, who is interested in marketing, started taking online classes at STCC this summer to get a head start. "If I'm not going to be on campus, I might as well start now because I have time," she said.

Louisa Davis-Freeman, dean of Admissions at STCC, said community college is a "smart start" anytime for anyone seeking a degree. It's especially true during the pandemic.

"They're wondering whether they want to pay a lot of money for an online course at some other four-year school when the same course can be purchased with us at a very reasonable cost," Davis-Freeman said. "You get the same credits. They all transfer to a four-year university or college, as long as you get a decent grade."

The Commonwealth Commitment (through the MassTransfer program) ensures that credits transfer to any Massachusetts state university or UMass campus. Earning a bachelor's degree at Westfield State or UMass Amherst will cost less than $39,000 when requirements are met. This represents a significant savings, even before financial aid or room-and-board are factored in. STCC offers additional transfer agreements with many private colleges in the Springfield, Worcester and Boston areas.

STCC also serves as an option for graduating high school seniors who were considering delaying plans for a year to go to college. Some recent high school graduates choose to take what is known as a "gap year" to travel domestically or internationally, to find an internship or to volunteer or to find a job close to home to save up for an expensive four-year college.

"We know that some people who were planning a gap year this fall realize that traveling is off the table because of safety concerns," Davis-Freeman said. "Job prospects and internships also may be unavailable because many businesses are not hiring as a result of the economic downturn."

Class of 2020 STCC graduate Maryam Abbasi is transferring to Montserrat College of Art this fall.

"I didn't have to pay a cent" for my two years at STCC, she said.

"I knew going straight into a four-year school was going to be difficult," Abbasi said. "I had really great professors [at STCC]. They know what they're doing. They engage with their students very well. So I would recommend that anybody go to community college first, specifically STCC."

STCC, the only technical community college in Massachusetts, will offer a combination of on-campus low density labs and online instruction this fall. STCC offers upwards of 90 programs, many of which are unique to the region. In addition, students avoid student loan debt, and find opportunity and more in STCC's multiple bachelor's degree transfer options. STCC is the most affordable college in Springfield.

STCC is known for its state-of-the art laboratories and equipment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs, as well as a nationally-recognized patient simulation facility used by students in its acclaimed health programs.

"STCC is a great choice to stay local, be safe, earn college credits, and then take them on to your four-year school in the future," Davis-Freeman said. "Our admissions counselors are working remotely but talking to people on the phone, through video conferencing or by email. Feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions. We're here to help."

Interested in applying to STCC? Visit stcc.edu/apply or call Admissions at (413) 755-3333.

About Springfield Technical Community College

Founded in 1967 and located on 35 acres of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site, STCC is a major resource for the economic vitality of Western Massachusetts. As the only technical community college in Massachusetts, STCC offers a variety of career programs unequalled in the state. STCC's highly regarded transfer programs in business, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, liberal arts, and STEM fields continue to provide the most affordable options for students pursuing a four-year degree. With an annual enrollment of about 7,000 day, evening, weekend, and online students, STCC is a vibrant campus rich in diversity.

For more information about STCC, visit www.stcc.edu.

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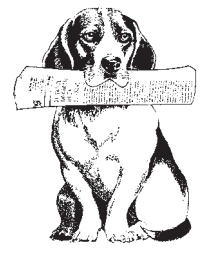

HELP WANTED

CUSTODIAN/SEMI-SKILLED LABORER The Town of Granby is seeking qualified applicants for the position of full-time Custodian/General Labor. Preferred candidate must possess a high school diploma and two years' experience. Job description is available at Town of Granby Selectboard Office 10-B W State St, Granby, MA 01033. Salary range is $16.63 to $18.17 per hour dependent upon qualifications. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Please submit resume and cover letter or application to Christopher Martin, Town Administrator, Town of Granby, Selectboard's Office 10-B W State St, Granby, MA 01033.

DRIVER – CDL CLASS A PNEUMATIC TANK & DUMP TRAILER. EXPERIENCED ONLY. RB Enterprises **413-583-8393**

SEASONAL GROUNDSKEEPEER The Town of Granby is seeking qualified applicants for the position of seasonal groundskeeper. Preferred candidate must possess a high school diploma and one to three years' experience. Job description is available at Town of Granby Selectboard Office 10-B W State St, Granby, MA 01033. Salary range is $14.26 to $15.58 per hour dependent upon qualifications. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Please submit resume and cover letter or application to Christopher Martin, Town Administrator, Town of Granby, Selectboard's Office 10-B W State St, Granby, MA 01033

REAL ESTATE

RANCH HOUSE EAST FOREST PARk, Chalmers St., Springfield. Five room, 2 car garage. Move in condition $160,000 Call Vinny (413) 734-3442

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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REAL ESTATE

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FOR RENT

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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